

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY	Cuba	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Weekly Meetings of the Executive Board of the PSP	DATE DISTR.	13 March 1953
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	3
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		25X1A	
		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:

25X1X

1. During the week of 1-7 February 1953, the National Executive Board of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP, Cuban Communist Party) met to discuss current political developments and problems.
2. In view of the fact that unregistered political parties would be allowed to participate in the next election, the PSP would adhere to its present line in its efforts to unite with the more popular and powerful opposition parties, especially the Partido del Pueblo Cubano (PPC, Ortodoxo). The campaign to obtain signatures in opposition to the Electoral Code would be continued, as well as efforts to obtain more Party affiliates. Joaquin ORDOQUI stated that the fight for political survival is the most important single point in the Party's program, and that the Communists leading the various United Front Committees must carry the brunt of the fight to unify PSP and Ortodoxo objectives and promote good relations so that eventually the National Committees would form a solid bi-party alliance.
3. To strengthen the PSP-Ortodoxo alliance, a series of municipal and provincial conferences should be organized, so that the PSP will have a means of moulding and directing the thinking of the non-Communists concerning political, union, and student problems. An attempt will be made to convert as many non-Communists as possible through the medium of these conferences.
4. The first of the series of municipal conferences was scheduled for 6 March in Habana at the Palacio de los Yesistas instead of at a Communist meeting place, since the Party desired to avoid a possible police raid. This will be followed by conferences in other municipal centers for the purpose of establishing United Front Committees where none exist at the present time, and also to create a framework for the establishment of provincial conferences.
5. The student problem on the agenda concerned the establishment of a new Communist youth organization to be known as Federacion Estudiantil Nacional de Segunda Ensenanza (FENSE), since the National Executive Board feels that the

SECRET

STATE	#	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC						
-------	---	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "W", Field Distribution By "F")

167

SECRET

- 2 -

Communists will never be able to control the Federacion Estudiantil Universitaria (FEU). Therefore, Communist leaders in the various secondary schools have been ordered to organize meetings for the establishment of the FENSE. The organizational body in this new movement will be the Consejo Permanente Nacional pro Defensa de los Derechos de la Juventud, Permanent National Council for Defense of the Rights of Youth. The National Executive Board hopes to create an organization which it can control, but which will not be brought into existence by direct participation of the Party or the Juventud Socialista (JS).

6. Manuel LUZARDO, Secretary of Finances and President of the National Finance Committee of the PSP, presented a grim report on the Party's financial structure. He stated that the financial condition of the Party is deplorable, and that the lack of attention to Party finances and obligations on the part of many members is intolerable. Again the National Executive Board ordered all members to pay their outstanding Party obligations, and all committees are to liquidate any debts owed to the National Committee on Publications. LUZARDO stated that the liquidation of obligations arising from the selling of PSP publications must be made with the same spirit of promptness and good faith shown by the propaganda section of the Party in getting out on time the various publications.
7. The National Executive Board will name six special commissions, one for each province, to be presided over by the appropriate provincial finance chairman. These commissions will be charged with the responsibility of visiting each municipality in the province and making a survey of the methods used in selling and distributing Party propaganda. An investigation will be made of the financial condition of the individual sales agencies, and the reasons for delay in payment of debts. The commission will also recommend a program for liquidating outstanding debts and maintaining a solvent financial condition.
8. The forthcoming Communist national congress on insurance and social security (Conferencia Nacional en Defensa de los Seguros Sociales y de la Seguridad Social) was again discussed by the National Executive Board. The previous date of 6 February has been changed, and the congress was scheduled for 27 and 28 February in Habana. The fundamental objective of this national congress was to create new machinery to administer retirement funds in the Cuban labor field, and to terminate the present inefficient method of administration. The charge was made against the non-Communist Confederacion de Trabajadores Cubanos (CTC) leaders that the present retirement funds represent a meal ticket for them, because they use the funds as a political weapon to assure their continuation as leaders of various unions. The congress will bring to light this malpractice, and will urge the establishment of a central retirement board and a central bank for workers' retirement, such as exist in other Latin American countries. This new proposal would guarantee the proper administration of retirement funds and economic security for retired workers. Subsequent to the establishment of this new retirement program, the administration would be in the hands of capable persons, including doctors, graduate nurses, and other professional people.
9. During the week 8-14 February the National Executive Board continued studies and discussions of the political situation. They were anxious to have a successful meeting on 6 March and devoted great care and thought to the advance arrangements and the basic theme of this reunion. The theme is exemplified in the name given to this meeting; i.e., Habana Municipal Conference in Favor of an Immediate and Democratic Conclusion to the Cuban Crisis (Conferencia Municipal de La Habana Pro Salida Inmediata y Democratica a la actual Crisis Cubana).
10. The National PSP leaders are pleased with their success in fomenting the chaotic condition which exists within the PFC party. The PSP considers it possible that the Orthodox party may divide itself into three groups, since there are discrepancies in certain details between the Mille OCHOA and the Pardo LLADA groups.

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

The National Executive Board feels that the psychological moment has not yet arrived in which the pactist group of the PPC is prepared to make a definite commitment of national understanding with the PSP through the formation of a joint National Executive Committee. The PSP will exert all its efforts at the Habana Municipal Conference on 6 March to create a situation whereby the Ortodoxo Pactists who are members of United Front Committees will demand a pact of unity between PPC and PSP. The impetus of this demand must come from the Ortodoxos themselves and spread through-out the island.

11. Joaquin ORDOQUI reported that he is well informed of the fact that there is a group of politically ambitious Ortodoxo leaders, headed by Federico FERNANDEZ Casas which has a viewpoint distinct from either the AGRAMONTE or the OCHOA groups. FERNANDEZ Casas is working on a maneuver to present himself before the Superior Electoral Tribunal and to inscribe PPC in his own name, in much the same manner as was done by GRAU San Martin with the Autenticos. He will petition the government to set another date for inscription of political parties in accordance with modifications to the Electoral Code which GRAU has suggested. As a result of direct conversations between ORDOQUI and Federico FERNANDEZ Casas and in anticipation of a modification in the Code, the National Executive Board is preparing all the necessary documents for inscription, including the required endorsing signatures. The signatures are already in the possession of the PSP, having been obtained during its campaign of protest against the Electoral Code. In anticipation of a possible dual use for these names, the PSP took care to prepare the petitions in such a manner that they could serve equally as petitions of inscription before the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. The PSP then will have to produce the electoral cedulae corresponding to the names of its petitioners.
12. Another problem confronting the National Executive Board is the continuing assaults by the police upon PSP property and property of those unions which are controlled by the Communists. The National Executive Board reaffirmed its previous decision to denounce in the law courts these actions of violence on the part of the government. The complaints will be signed by those persons in whose name this property is registered. It was also agreed to propagandize the destruction of this property and to keep the sentiments of the Cuban people inflamed against such acts of vandalism by government forces. Thousands of pamphlets will be printed and distributed nation-wide showing the photographs and with a narrative commentary on some of the most violent examples of police brutality. In connection with this program the Executive Board reaffirmed its intent to enlist the aid of other political parties in a protest of solidarity against the government police. It will be stated that these pamphlets show what the Government of BATISTA is doing against the PSP solely because the Communist party is its strongest point of opposition.
13. The National Conference for Defense of Social Security was discussed and it was agreed to seek the support of all Communist labor leaders as well as members of Unitarian Fight Committees. These groups will be asked to bring to the Labor Conference a list of their economic problems besetting the respective groups as well as concrete and detailed examples of mismanagement of their retirement boards.
14. A progress report was made the Communist-sponsored commemoration of the Grito de Baire scheduled for 24 February, in the National Theatre of Habana. The National Executive Board agreed that the work of this activity was proceeding well but insisted on intensification which would insure a successful Party program. It was urged that each Party member participate in this celebration with his entire family and at least two friends.

SECRET